



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
The Sixth Sunday of Lent
March 24, 2024



Palm Sunday

from "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"
~ Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
The donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
the donkey stood and waited.

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude “The Palms (Les Rameaux)” by Jean-Baptiste Faure
Robert Acker, tenor soloist

Call to Worship

Please rise or remain seated and join us in our Call to Worship

We set our face to this, our village -
and all the ones beyond us.
The donkey (there were two, maybe) are waiting...

“Untie them; bring them to me,” Jesus says.

Bring us to you, as well.
However, we may ride.

Please remain as you are and join us in singing our opening hymn.

Hymn “All Glory Laud and Honor”
New Century Hymnal #216 vs. 1 & 3

All glory, laud and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Unison Prayer

Please be seated and join us in reading this morning's Unison Prayer

"Say You, (for Palm Sunday)" by Joseph H. Gilmore

O you whose name we do
not, have never known:
on that day,
did he enter the spirit
of the parade?
Did he laugh at their gesture,
unlikely prophet on an
unlikely animal
shuffling toward
an unknown destiny?

Say you.

Or did he look neither right
nor left, flint-faced,
eyes fixed
on some undetermined
distance, ears closed to the
merriment
of the bystanders?

Say you.

Did his heart race,
sensing danger,
but not knowing from where?
Did he wish
he had never prayed
for the coming of God
in his life with power,
and for his people
with power, love and justice?

Say you.

Did he still own the words
he borrowed from Isaiah
for his first sermon...
"The Spirit of God
is upon me,"
or, as he rode,
was he rehearsing
his last prayer...
"My God, my God,
why?"

*You say,
we beseech you.*

He was a danger
and a delight
you know this,
and following in his way is,
ever,
more than we
bargained for.
He went up
in flames,
and there has been light ever
since.

Hosannah in the highest!
Blessed are those,
who like him,
ride in to town
regardless.

Choral Anthem “Draw Nigh, O Lord” by Jeremy Taylor, arranged by Erik Routley
James Cesare, trumpet descant

Assurance of God’s Love

One fact remains always that does not change: God has loved us, loves us now, and will love us always. This is the good news. Good news that brings us new life, every moment of every day. It’s why we are here, perhaps.

Please rise or remain seated.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

With this Good News of God’s presence and love in mind:

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

Joys, Celebrations and Concerns

We take this time now to share our Joys, Celebrations and Concerns with one another. Please wait for the microphone so that all those here and at home can hear you... all to hear...

Please respond with “God, hear our prayers.”

The Prayer of Jesus

Creator God who is in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Please remain seated.

Hymn “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” New Century Hymnal #292

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire,
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life, of your eternity.

First Reading Isaiah 50: 4-5; 7 (The Inclusive Bible)

Exalted YHWH has given me
a skilled and well-trained tongue,
so that I can sustain the weary
with a timely word.

God awakens me, morning after morning—
wakens my ear, to listen like a student.

Exalted Yhwh opened my ears
and I have obeyed, I did not turn away.

Because Exalted YHWH helps me,
Insults cannot wound me,
For I have set my face like flint,
Because I know I will not be put to shame.

Choral Anthem “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
by Jennette Threlfall, arranged by Mark Hayes
James Cesare, trumpet descant

Gospel Reading Mark 11:1-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples, with this instruction: “Go to the village, straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it, you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie and bring it back. If anyone says to you ‘Why are you doing that?’ Say, ‘The rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?” They answered, as Jesus told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, as he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the field. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

Homily “The Light We Bring” Michael Jayne, Congregational Voice

Musical Response “Go Light Your World” Words and Music by Chris Rice

Please rise in spirit or body and join in singing.

Church Covenant

In response to God’s love, we covenant with each other...
to be faithful to the demands and inspiration of the eternal spirit,
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;
to accept and respect each other with love and concern
in our worship and witness.;

to reach out with the courage of our convictions
in the cause of justice, liberation, and equality for all.

In this, we covenant to keep the ultimate promise:
“I care, I am with you.

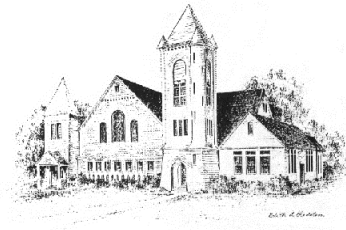
Please be seated.

Benediction Michael Jayne

Choral Blessing “Go Now In Peace”
Lyrics by Don Besig and Nancy Price
Music by Don Besig

Ringing the Bell

Postlude “On The Willows” from Godspell
by Stephen Schwartz



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

For nearly 175 years, Sayville's Congregational Church has served families on the South Shore of Long Island and has been a voice for the progressive Protestant tradition. A member of the United Church of Christ since it was established in 1957, we celebrate God's love, by continuing to advocate for the oppressed, while welcoming all on their spiritual journey, from wherever they may come. Thank you for being with us today. Please contact us at any time for more information about our congregation and questions you may have.

Today's Worship Leadership
Congregational Voice – Michael Jayne
Liturgist – Kim Thompsen
Music Director – Sean Cameron
Ushers – Sue Lanchantin and Michael Hoff
Media Team – Karin Conrad, Mark Conrad, Casey Cunningham
Connie Kauffman, Kathy Leis and Hank Maust

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Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; eChimes Editor
Today's Service is being simulcast on our church channel at
www.echimestv.org Tune in any time!

*Thank you for being with us today.
Peace. Shalom. Salaam. For the ways of peace are many.
“Namaste”*